

provide access or improve health are to my constituents and the self-employed is great.

Sunkist's recent announcement, the rise in the number of uninsured, and the fact that patients, physicians, and other providers have waited too long for reforms are all compelling reasons why patient protection legislation must be enacted soon. Because the House legislation includes many common-sense improvements in patient access, coverage, and liability, along with the important AHP and medical savings accounts provisions, I urge that a conference on this bill be called immediately.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MACK TIMBERLAKE

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage to a dedicated man, husband, father and servant of God, Mack Timberlake. Bishop Timberlake died at the age of fifty-two on January 29, 2002. As senior pastor of the Christian Faith Center in Creedmoor, North Carolina, Mack's creed was to live life to the fullest while fulfilling the vision God has given us.

I extend my dearest sympathies to Mack's wife, Brenda, and their six children. She, like Mack, has devoted her life to serving our Lord and His children. Together, Mack and Brenda have authored seven books.

Bishop Timberlake and I worked together on promoting the faith-based initiative. It is sad that he will not be able to see the fruits of his labor, but I am certain he would be glad to know we are closer with each passing day to making that idea a reality. Serving the least of our brethren is a noble goal Mack never lost sight of. When I continue to work on this endeavor, I will most certainly think of him.

The career of Mack Timberlake was quite extensive. He served as regent on the Board of Trustees for Oral Roberts University, was given an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Jameson Christian College, wrote a monthly column for "Gospel Today," was the superintendent of nearly 300 students at the Christian Faith Center Academy, co-owned a boutique and served on the Board of Governors for the National Faith Based Initiative.

It is always difficult to say goodbye to a loved one. But it is always a blessing to have known someone who made a difference in people's lives. Mack Timberlake did indeed live life to its fullest while preaching the Gospel and working to make our country, one nation under God, a better one. For that, we are all blessed.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVE LESSTRANG

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to express my gratitude and appreciation for the hard work and dedication of Dave LesStrang, who for the past 17 years has been a highly-valued member of my of-

fice, first as press secretary, and then as deputy chief of staff and legislative director.

Dave LesStrang came to work for me in 1985, a newly-minted 21-year-old college graduate, filled with the zeal and fervor that can only come from participation in college political groups like the Young Americans for Freedom. We hired him as a press secretary, hoping he would grow into the job over time.

It didn't take long for Dave to show the flair for organizing and completing big projects that has marked his career as a congressional staff member. One of my constituents, Hulda Crooks, completed her 21st climb of Mt. Whitney at the age of 89. When I congratulated her, I remarked that I would like to join her if she wanted to try again at 90. She said "sure," and within a few days called to ask if I was getting ready for the hike. I asked Dave to take on the job of organizing the event. He spent long hours working out details and convincing major media of its importance—with the result that the Los Angeles Times carried my photo on its cover for one of the few times in my career in the House.

Years later, Dave helped me convince the Interior Department to name a mountain near Mt. Whitney as Crooks' Peak in honor of that outstanding lady.

Dave indeed grew into the job as press secretary. He is an excellent writer, and over the years has produced thousands of press releases, speeches, constituent letters and other important correspondence that often defines the character of a congressional office. Members of the media praised my office for providing clear and dependable information, a highly valued reputation that we gained in no small part because of Dave's efforts.

He also came to intimately know the needs and character of the Inland Empire and High Desert areas of California, which I have represented for the past two decades. He has personally taken on the cause of an untold number of constituents, ensuring that federal agencies meet their responsibilities and provide top service. A typical example occurred just last year: One of my constituents asked for help in gaining recognition for her father, a pioneer engineer in space technology, from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Dave not only got NASA's attention, he helped convince the agency to award the constituent's father the Distinguished Service medal, the highest to be given to civilians.

Dave's willingness to go the extra mile and get spectacular results was also evident on a number of larger-scale projects.

When I was named as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies, I was committed to finding ways for more people to reach the American dream of owning their own home. I decided that it would be a powerful symbolic gesture for members of Congress to help build some houses for low-income residents of our nation's capital.

I asked Dave to take on the project, and it soon blossomed into one of the most high-profile charitable efforts ever attempted by House members. Working with Habitat for Humanity, and with the enthusiastic support of Speaker Newt Gingrich and Fannie Mae, Dave organized the Houses That Congress Built, a nationwide campaign that saw nearly all 435 house members personally help build homes in their districts. The effort provided a tremen-

dous boost for the effort to provide affordable homes to low-income Americans. And true to his spirit of going above and beyond, Dave has personally volunteered for hundreds of hours on his own working on Habitat for Humanity houses.

Most of the colleagues from California will remember Dave for the other major success he helped accomplish in recent years: The organizing of our delegation into an effective, cooperative force for the people of California.

When I became chairman of the California Republican Congressional Delegation in 1995, there was little cooperation even among members of my conference, let alone across the aisle in our delegation. Members were divided by personalities, geography and partisanship, and the entire delegation had not come together on an issue since it had been grown beyond 50 members in 1980. Dave helped to reverse that historical trend. As the only staff member serving all California Republicans, he spent hundreds of hours meeting with staff from other California offices and personally walked miles in our congressional buildings winning signatures for delegation-wide letters. Within a year, we had the first letter signed by all 52 members—a feat that is now repeated regularly as our members have learned the value of working together on behalf of our state.

Since he became my legislative director in 1999, Dave has helped me complete many major projects serving our district. Congress has agreed to the expansion of the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, completing a decades-long effort in support of the world's finest training facility. The Seven Oaks Dam has been dedicated along the Santa Ana River, providing flood control protection for millions of people in Southern California. And the new national parks in our desert are becoming good neighbors for the constituents who live around them.

I have always felt that members of my staff are like members of my family, and it has been a pleasure to watch Dave mature in his personal life even as he has become a consummate professional in his job. We were delighted when he met and married Elaine Dalpiaz nine years ago, and thrilled again when he and Elaine became parents to Matthew nearly two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, after 17 years in my office providing these invaluable services to my constituents—and indeed to all Californians and Americans—Dave LesStrang is moving on to a new career working for the EMC Corporation, a cutting-edge firm providing data storage to help protect the records of private industry and government. Please join me in thanking him for his dedication and years of service, and in wishing him and Elaine well in all of their future efforts.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF THE GRANT HIGH SCHOOL WE THE PEOPLE CLASS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, On May 4-6, 2002, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington,